

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A memory protection system comprising:
2 a key store storing identifiers of protected memory locations and respective
3 corresponding memory protection keys; and
4 a memory access manager configured to:
5 receive a memory command for altering contents of any of the protected memory
6 locations, ~~and for each memory command, to~~
7 determine whether the memory command includes a memory protection key
8 corresponding to at least one of said protected memory locations to be altered, ~~and, where~~
9 if the memory command includes the memory protection key corresponding to
10 each protected memory location to be altered, ~~[[to]]~~ permit the memory command to proceed,
11 and
12 then render ~~[[each]]~~ the memory protection key in the memory command
13 inaccessible by overwriting at least a portion of the memory protection key.

1 2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the identifiers comprise addresses in a
2 protected memory.

1 3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the identifiers comprise names of protected
2 files in a memory.

1 4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the identifiers identify data entries in a
2 protected memory.

1 5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein each of the memory protection keys
2 comprises a modified version of a data sequence.

1 6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the modified version comprises a hash of the
2 data sequence.

1 7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the key store stores a mapping table that maps
2 each identifier to a corresponding memory protection key.

1 8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein at least one of the identifiers is mapped to
2 multiple corresponding memory protection keys.

1 9. (Original) The system of claim 1, implemented in an electronic device having a memory,
2 the memory comprising the protected memory locations and unprotected memory locations.

1 10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the memory access manager is
2 further configured to receive memory commands for altering contents of the unprotected
3 memory locations, and to permit the memory commands for altering contents of the unprotected
4 memory locations and ~~each memory command for altering contents of any protected memory~~
5 ~~location that includes the memory protection key corresponding to each protected memory~~
6 ~~location to be altered~~ without checking for any memory protection key.

1 11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the memory access manager is
2 further configured to perform ~~[[each]]~~ the memory command that includes the memory
3 protection key corresponding to each protected memory location to be altered.

1 12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, implemented in an electronic device,
2 wherein the memory ~~commands are~~ command is received by the memory access manager from
3 an originating electronic device component, and wherein the originating electronic device
4 component proceeds with ~~[[each]]~~ the memory command permitted by the memory access
5 manager.

1 13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the originating electronic device component
2 is a memory update module.

1 14. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the originating electronic device component
2 sends memory commands to the memory access manager responsive to data received at the
3 electronic device.

1 15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the originating electronic device component
2 is further configured to extract a received memory protection key from the received data and to
3 provide the received memory protection key to the memory access manager.

1 16. (Currently Amended) An electronic device comprising:
2 a memory;
3 a wireless receiver configured to receive data relating to a remote software update to be
4 written to the memory; and
5 a memory protection system associating protected memory locations in the memory with
6 respective corresponding keys, and configured to allow the received data to be written to any of
7 the protected memory locations only if the received data includes a key corresponding to the
8 protected memory location to which the received data is to be written and to render the
9 corresponding key in the received data inaccessible after allowing the received data to be written
10 to the protected memory location.

1 17. (Original) The electronic device of claim 16, wherein the memory comprises unprotected
2 memory locations into which the received data is written.

1 18. (Original) The electronic device of claim 17, wherein each key is rendered inaccessible
2 by erasing the received data from the unprotected memory locations where the memory access
3 manager allows the received data to be written to the protected memory locations.

1 19. (Currently Amended) The electronic device of claim 16, wherein the memory protection
2 system comprises:

3 a key store storing a mapping table that associates the protected memory locations with
4 the respective corresponding keys; and

5 a memory access manager configured to:

6 process a memory [[a]] command for writing the received data to any of the
7 protected memory locations, [[to]]

8 determine whether the received data includes the key corresponding to any of the
9 protected memory locations to which the received data is to be written, ~~and, where~~

10 if the received data includes the key corresponding to a protected memory
11 location to which the received data is to be written, [[to]]

12 permit the memory command to proceed, and

13 then render the corresponding key in the received data inaccessible.

1 20. (Original) The electronic device of claim 19, wherein the memory comprises a file
2 system, and wherein the key store resides at a secure location in the memory outside the file
3 system.

1 21. (Cancelled)

1 22. (Currently Amended) A method of protecting memory in an electronic device,
2 comprising:
3 receiving a memory command to ~~[[alter]]~~ access a protected memory location;
4 determining whether the received memory command is a memory read command to read
5 the protected memory location, or a memory write command to alter the protected memory
6 location;
7 in response to determining that the received memory command is the memory write
8 command:
9 identifying a memory protection key corresponding to the protected memory
10 location;
11 determining whether the memory write command includes the memory protection
12 key corresponding to the protected memory location;
13 permitting completion of the memory write command ~~[[where]]~~ if the memory
14 write command includes the memory protection key corresponding to the protected memory
15 location; and
16 rendering the memory protection key in the memory write command inaccessible;
17 and
18 in response to determining that the received memory command is the memory read
19 command, processing the memory read command to read the protected memory location without
20 checking for any memory protection key.

1 23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein permitting comprises performing
2 the memory write command.

1 24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein receiving comprises receiving
2 the memory command from an originating electronic device component, and wherein permitting
3 comprises allowing the originating electronic device component to perform the memory write
4 command.

1 25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising:
2 receiving data to be written to the protected memory location; and
3 generating the memory write command responsive to receiving the data.

1 26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[25]] 44, wherein the received data
2 comprises a received key, and wherein generating comprises extracting the received key from the
3 received data and inserting the received key into the memory write command.

1 27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein determining comprises
2 comparing the memory protection key corresponding to the protected memory location with the
3 received key in the memory write command.

1 28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein determining comprises retrieving
2 a modified version of the memory protection key corresponding to the protected memory
3 location, modifying the received key in the memory write command to generate a modified
4 received key, and comparing the modified received key to the modified version of the memory
5 protection key corresponding to the protected memory location.

1 29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of:
2 storing the received data to an unprotected memory location,
3 wherein rendering the memory protection key in the memory write command
4 inaccessible comprises ~~erasing the received data from the unprotected memory location~~
5 overwriting at least a portion of the memory protection key in the memory write command upon
6 completion of the memory write command.

1 30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein identifying comprises
2 identifying a protected memory location in the memory write command and accessing a mapping
3 table that maps protected memory locations to respective corresponding memory protection keys.

1 31. (Cancelled)

1 32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising:
2 receiving memory commands to alter unprotected memory locations; and
3 permitting completion of the memory commands to alter unprotected memory locations
4 without checking for any memory protection keys.

1 33. (Cancelled)

1 34. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein said identifying step comprises accessing
2 the memory protection key corresponding to the protected memory location in a key store, the
3 method further comprising:
4 receiving a command to establish a new protected memory location in the memory and a
5 memory protection key corresponding to the new protected memory location;
6 establishing the new protected memory location in the memory; and
7 storing the memory protection key in the key store.

1 35. (Original) A computer-readable medium storing instructions for performing the method
2 of claim 22.

1 36. (Currently Amended) A method of protecting electronic memory, comprising:
2 configuring a memory store of an electronic device into at least one protected memory
3 location and a key store operable to store an identifier of each protected memory location and a
4 respective corresponding memory protection key; and
5 configuring a processor of the electronic device to provide a memory access manager
6 operable to receive memory commands for altering contents of any of the at least one protected
7 memory location, and for at least one memory command, to determine whether the memory
8 command includes a memory protection key corresponding to at least one protected memory
9 location to be modified, said memory command including the memory protection key
10 corresponding to at least one said protected memory location to be modified, to permit the
11 memory command and then render each corresponding memory protection key in the command
12 inaccessible, wherein the memory command corresponds to a remote software update received
13 by a wireless receiver for updating the at least one protected memory location to be modified.

1 37. – 38. (Cancelled)

1 39. (Original) A computer-readable medium storing instructions for performing the method
2 of claim 36.

1 40. (Cancelled)

1 41. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the memory access manager is configured to
2 further receive a memory read command to read content of a particular protected memory
3 location, the memory access manager to allow the memory read command to proceed to read the
4 content of the particular protected memory location without checking for any memory protection
5 key.

1 42. (New) The electronic device of claim 16, further comprising volatile storage having
2 unprotected memory locations, the memory protection system configured to download the
3 received data including the key to the unprotected memory locations of the volatile storage prior
4 to writing the received data to the protected memory locations, and the memory protection
5 system to render the key inaccessible by overwriting at least a portion of the key.

1 43. (New) The electronic device of claim 16, wherein the memory protection system is
2 configured to further:
3 receive a memory read command to access a particular one of the protected memory
4 locations,
5 perform reading of the particular protected memory location in response to the memory
6 read command, without checking for any memory protection key.

1 44. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein receiving the data to be written comprises
2 receiving, by a wireless receiver, a remote software update to be written to the protected memory
3 location.

1 45. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein configuring the processor further comprises
2 configuring the processor to receive a memory read command to read a particular one of the
3 protected memory locations, and to permit the memory read command to read the particular
4 protected memory location without checking for any memory protection key.